



Our Land. Our Legacy.

Harvard Conservation Trust

Muller Conservation Collaborative

2016 Annual Report

The Harvard Conservation Trust (HCT) was founded in 1973 by five Harvard residents “to assist in and promote the preservation of the rural character of the Town of Harvard”. One of HCT’s founders, Erhart Muller, bequeathed \$1.5M to HCT in 2015 “to be used solely for the protection of land in Harvard providing that it is first matched 1:1 by individual or institutional contributions”. To fulfill Erhart’s vision, HCT founded the Muller Conservation Collaborative (MCC).

In 2017, open space is under increasing pressure for development. As noted in the introductory MCC communication, the Mass Audubon report *Losing Ground* places Harvard in the sprawl frontier—where important natural resources are under the greatest threat of being lost or degraded due to impending rapid growth and development. As the real estate market continues to heat up, large tracts of open space in Harvard are being marketed for prices reaching into the millions.

The Town’s rural character is important to its residents. In a May 2016 public survey, 583 respondents overwhelmingly indicated they valued the Town’s open space, and felt strongly that the Town should “protect, enhance and preserve its rural character and historic landscapes”. With your support for the MCC, HCT will work with the Town, State and other conservation organizations to achieve this goal.

To kick off the MCC, HCT’s Trustees pledged \$196,550 with 100% participation. HCT Trustees have also hosted several events to enlist the support of the community. To date, a total of \$291,889 has been raised. These donations are matched 1:1 by Erhart’s bequest, and \$611,147 is currently available for land conservation (after including investment income).

With these funds, HCT is able to help protect the important open spaces and critical natural resources in Harvard. Most immediate is Horse Meadows Knoll, which HCT is working with other conservation organizations and abutters to protect. HCT is also in discussion with several landowners whose property is for sale, and will continue to augment MCC funds with other funding sources to protect this irreplaceable open space.



Horse Meadows Knoll

Thank you for joining us in the effort to protect Harvard's opens spaces and rural character,

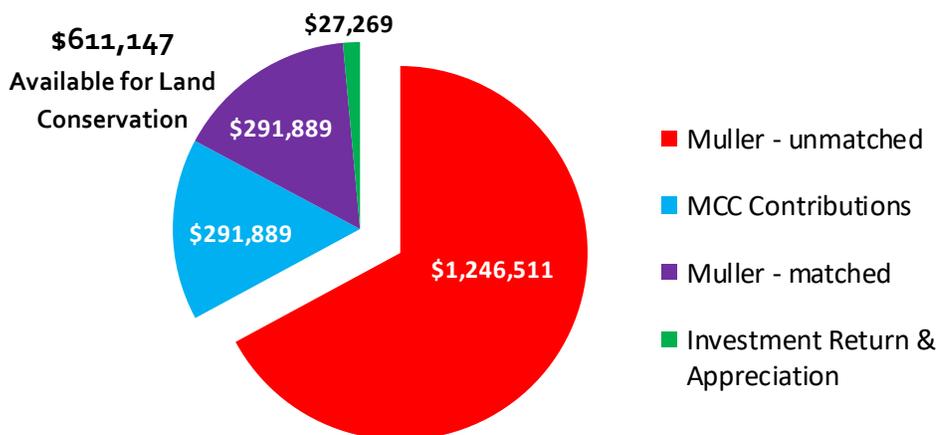
For the Harvard Conservation Trust,



Peter Dorward, Trustee & President
Mark Finnegan, Trustee & Development Committee co-chair
Teresa Garti, Trustee & Development Committee co-chair
David Outman, Executive Director

Muller Conservation Collaborative Funds

(as of 1/31/17)



Muller Conservation Collaborative Donors

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* Numerous donations in memory of Larry Finnegan, one of HCT's founders.

† Matching gift participants and individuals who elicited matching gifts.